

THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

PETER A. BRANNON, *Editor*



Published by the
State Department
of
Archives and History

Vol. 19

No. 2

SUMMER ISSUE

1957



1957

CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial -----	213
Fort Claiborne, <i>Sketch by Justus Wyman</i> -----	217
First Alabama River Survey, <i>by Howell Tatum</i> -----	218
James Craig's Tennessee Volunteers at Claiborne -----	220
Death of Lieutenant Wilcox -----	228
Sale of Lots in the Town of Claiborne, Alabama -----	232
G. W. Creagh's Commission from Governor Bibb -----	249
Early History of Monroe County, Alabama, <i>by Thomas M. Owen</i> -----	250
The Officials of Monroe County while the Court House was at Claiborne -----	253
Postmasters at Claiborne, 1817 to Date -----	255
Claiborne Postmark -----	257
LaFayette's Visit to Claiborne -----	259
Notable Personages who Some Time had Associations with Claiborne -----	280
Letter to Mrs. Caroline Crawford -----	282
Record of Inscriptions in the Jewish Cemetery, Claiborne -----	284
Records of Cemetery at Claiborne -----	286
Charles Tait, Early Settler -----	294
Tait-Conrad Correspondence -----	296
Washington Hall, Claiborne's Leading Hotel, 1844 -----	297
James Dellet -----	299
Rufus Torrey -----	301
Torrey-Dellet Correspondence, 1843-1845 -----	304
Steps and Landing, Alabama River, Claiborne -----	309
Flag of the "Claiborne Guards" -----	352
Map of the Town of Claiborne -----	Insert

sioners appointed by the Legislative Act to approve the securities of the officers of the newly created town. This same Mr. Dellet figured to a remarkable degree in the life story of that early settlement.

William Barrett Travis, one of the heroes of the Alamo, read law in the office of Mr. Dellet and left Claiborne in the early 1830's to try his fortune in Texas.

This point on the Alabama River has had a remarkable effect on the history of the State. It very early became an important point and at the time of the Territorial capital at St. Stephens, some miles southwest, was the main crossing place in the State when travellers went from the Tensas and Tombigbee country to the National capital of Washington and points east. Claiborne is said to have had several thousand settlers at one time, though this cannot be documented. The place is internationally known on account of the world's interest in the Eocene geological formations at mean low water level under the bluff.

Timothy Conrad, a celebrated Philadelphia naturalist, spent two years there as the guest in the home of Judge Charles Tait, from 1822, and other world known scientists, including Sir Charles Lyell, a Britisher, were there at times. It was up to 1860, a well known shipping point on the Alabama River and the association with the steamboats and travel industry of that character is well known.

Much has been written about Claiborne. Not only many magazine and short articles have appeared but a number of books have been published about the place. One of the most interesting of these is a life story of Timothy Abbott Conrad, by Harry E. Wheeler, of Birmingham, who devotes much of the volume to Dr. Conrad's stay in Alabama. The volume is richly illustrated, profusely documented and the bibliography relative to Claiborne is remarkably set out, all in all, one of Alabama's richest contributions to a local site.

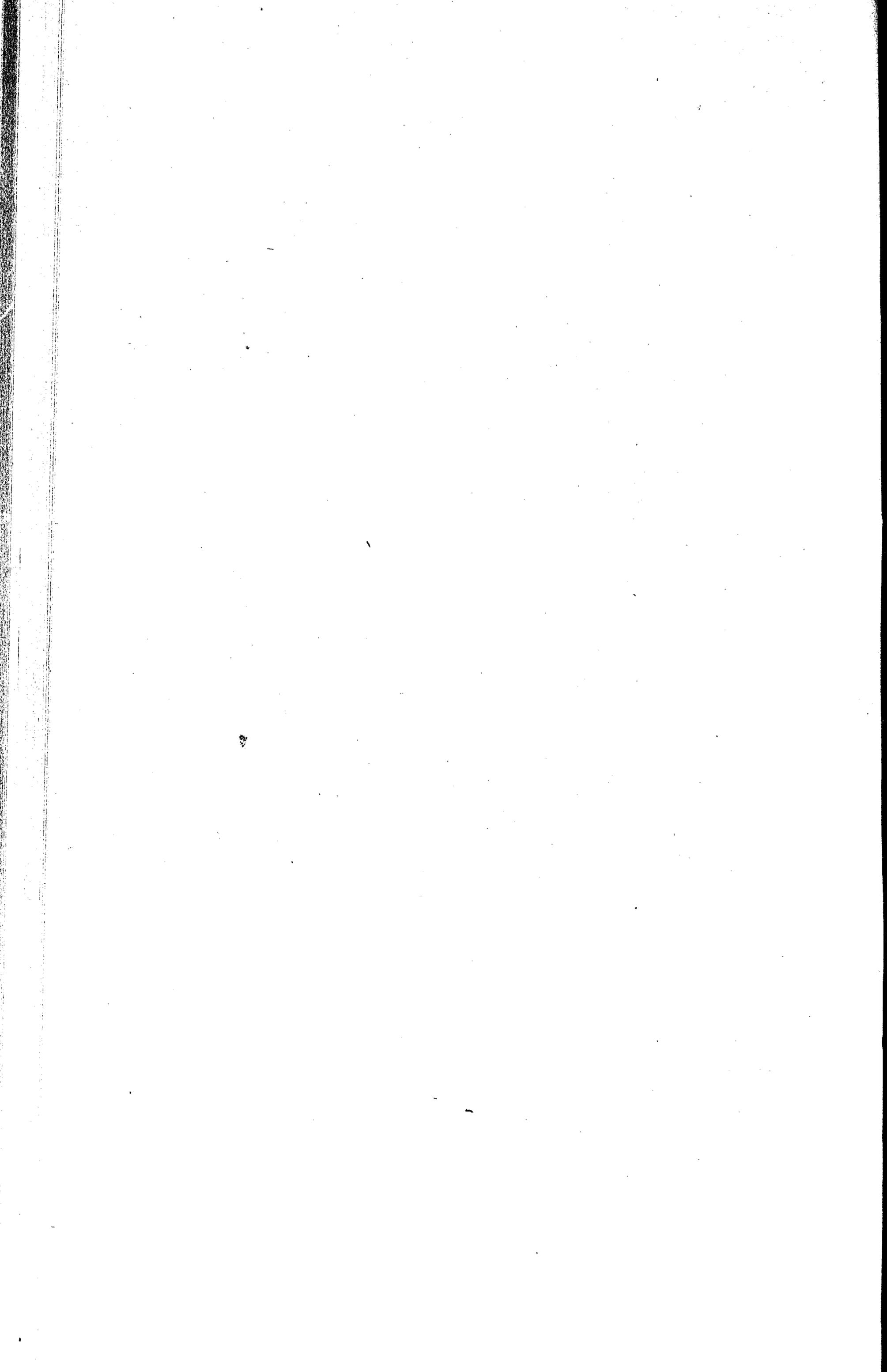
The Editor is particularly indebted to Mrs. Deer for the suggestion of the preparation of this number and for her contributions to it. She is at the present time editing the political papers of James Dellet, Rufus Torrey and Lyman Gibbons, and these will be subsequently published. In addition to this material, Mrs. Deer has a great deal of collected data about the social and economic life of Claiborne and we will have access to this material for publication.

Mr. McCall has been particularly helpful in assembling material for this issue.

JUSTUS WYMAN



Mr. Wyman was living at Fort Claiborne in 1817, and may be accepted as Alabama's first historian. He compiled an historical sketch of the new State just before he moved, in 1820, to Montgomery. Dr. William S. Wyman, the distinguished historian, long time at the University, was a grandson.



FORT CLAIBORNE

Sketch by JUSTUS WYMAN

Fort Claiborne²⁶ is situated at the head of schooner navigation on the Alabama River, about 130 miles from Blakely by water, and 80 by land.

The town stands on a high bluff of land called the Alabama Heights, about 180 feet above the level of the river. The first settlement commenced in this town towards the close of the year 1816; since that time it has increased with a rapidity scarcely paralleled. The whole number of inhabitants which one year ago did not exceed 800, is now rising of 2,000. In point of health and commercial advantages, Ft. Claiborne, as an inland town, stands unrivaled, and little doubt can be entertained of its being eventually one of the first commercial and political places in the territory. There is a claim laid upon the site of this town, by Wetherford,²⁷ a half-breed Indian, which has prevented settlers from making any permanent or expensive establishments. The houses are merely of a temporary nature, built of logs, and put up for present use only. It is generally believed that this claim is valid, and that he will recover the place. Should this be the case, government will probably purchase it of him, as he will not hold in fee simple, but by a special act of Congress, will be permitted to sell to government, and to no one else. If he should recover the claim, and government should not make the purchase, the settlement will probably be broken up, which will be a very serious injury to the country.

²⁶See Trans. Ala. Hist. Society, 1897-98, pp. 158-9, and notes.

²⁷John Weatherford—See Trans. Ala. Hist. Society, 1897-98, pp. 159-60, 165.

FIRST ALABAMA RIVER SURVEY

1814

By HOWELL TATUM

—So. 60 Wt. 20 ch To Fort Claibourne⁶⁴ situated on a high pine bluff of 150 feet perpendicular, on the left side the river—A rich bottom to the right and a spring under the Fort in the river bank to the left.

West 30 ch—Bluff continues, lower but still poor & piny—rich bottom on the right.

No. 55 Wt. 60 ch—Bluff decreasing & piny—rich bottom on the right & largely improved.—landed on the left at John Weatherford's ferry, at the end of the bluff at 45 minutes after 3 o'clock P.M. & encamped at 41 m. 20 ch.

⁶⁴Now Claiborne. The remains of the fort are still visible. It was built by General F. L. Claiborne in November, 1813, as a base of supplies on his invasion of the Creek country from the southwest. The best description of the fort is that here given by Tatum. The white bluff and long steps of Claiborne are prominent objects on the Alabama River.

Nothing can be found in the existing War Department records as to the founding, occupancy, or abandonment of Fort Claiborne. Gardner's *Dictionary of the Army of the U. S.*, p. 578, says that it was named after Brig. Gen. F. L. Claiborne, as is generally stated. That publication also gives Fort Montgomery, opposite the Cut Off, at three miles distance, as named for Bvt. Maj. E. Montgomery, 7th Infantry. There is no plan of either on record, but the location of Fort Claiborne, as well as of other posts, is given on the early printed *Map of Alabama*, constructed from surveys of the General Land Office, &c., by John Mellish, 1818-19.

After the Creek treaty of Aug. 9, 1814, Gov. David Holmes, of the Mississippi Territory, by proclamation dated June 29, 1815, created Monroe County to embrace all the ceded lands. On Dec. 9, 1815, the Territorial Assembly designated Fort Claiborne as the place for holding the Courts of the County. It remained the seat of Justice until 1832. In its early days it was "a place of fame," and many of the leading public men had residences there. It was very unhealthy, however, and this was one cause of its downfall. Railroad competition destroyed its commercial importance. See Pickett's *Alabama*, vol. ii, p. 320, Brewer's *Alabama*, pp. 434-5; and Ball's *Clarke County*, p. 458.

Note—The road⁶⁵ of communication between Fort St. Stephens & Milledgeville in Georgia crosses the Alabama at this ferry, the property of a friendly Creek Indian, brother to the noted chief who was a principal leader in the destruction of Fort Mimms.

The bluff on which the Fort is situated is called the Alabama heights. It overlooks an extensive, valuable bottom on the right bank, which is said to be backed with a bluff of high pine lands from the foot of which run many fine springs that will prove of great utility in the future settlement of this part of the country—above this place lies large and extensive bodies of prime bottom, and, as is said, high lands—the situation & water good & healthy of course will become a valuable acquisition to the United States. It is by lands from 20 to 30 miles above Fort Mimms & 50 miles above Fort Stoddard and 90 to 100 miles above Mobile.

Fort Claibourne is a strong built Stockade Fort nearly a square on the centre of three squares are built Blockhouses which have the effect of Salient Angles, the outer ends of which are shaped so as to have the effect of the face of Bastions in defence—there is also one of them in the line of an irregular off set in the work, made to avoid including part of a ravine.

18th

Proceeded at 40 minutes after 10 o'clock A.M.

No. 60 Wt. 30 ch—Weatherfords Improvts. on the left, commences at the ferry, & contains a part of an excellent piece of bottom land—The improved lands, opposite, are also claimed by him—A swamp on the back part of the Improvt. on the right.

⁶⁵The route crossing here from St. Stephens merged to the east in the Federal Road. It is noteworthy that Sam Dale in carrying the news of the victory at New Orleans did not at Mims Ferry and pursue the Federal Road but took a more northerly route and crossed the Alabama at Randon's, mentioned by Tatum lower down. This may have been due to high water at Nannahubba Island. See Claiborne's Dale, p. 160. The brother referred to is John Weatherford, of the preceding paragraph.

Tatum's Journal in

Transactions of the Alabama Historical Society 1897-1898, Vol. II, pp. 158-160.

JAMES CRAIG'S TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS AT CLAIBORNE*

A list of Capt. James Craig Comp'y Mustered into service at Fayetteville the 20 Sept. 1814.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. James Craig Capt. | 41. John Lomicks X |
| 2. Edmond W. Gee 1 Liut. | 42. Gilbert Briffen X |
| 3. Trustin B. Thomas 2 Lt. | 43. Nathan Linn X |
| 4. Thomas Nesbit 3 Do. | 44. Erasmus Brewer X |
| 5. Johnathin King En. | 45. William Petty X |
| 6. Samuel Young 1 Ser. | 46. John Miller X |
| 7. John Letherdale 2 Do. | 47. Jacob Bean X |
| 8. John Nesbit 3 Do. | 48. Ezekiel Preston X |
| 9. Thomas Gee 4 | 49. Malcim McMillen X |
| 10. William Barber 5 | 50. Joseph Gibson X |
| 11. James Jackson 1 Cor. | 51. Kenchen Perry X |
| 12. George Purkins 2 Do. | 52. Ruffin Gin (Enlisted) X |
| 13. Benjamin Gremmet 3 | 53. Levi Murphy X |
| 14. Ephram Potter 4 | 54. John Gerret X |
| 15. Benjamin Thomas 5 | 55. Jacob Ortner X |
| 16. William H. Stennet 6 | 56. Harry Giles X |
| <hr/> | |
| 1. Thomas Powers X | 57. Barton Davis X |
| 2. Alen Comer X | 58. Jeremiah Menasco X |
| 3. John Wood X | 59. Andw Hunter X |
| 4. Joel Childers X | 60. James Menasco X |
| 5. William Cotton X | 61. Francis McClenehan X |
| 6. Abraham Robertson X | 62. John Peacock, transfered |
| 7. Levi Anderson X | 63. Richard High (Joseph Ivrey) |
| 8. Drury Massy X | 64. Harry Johns X |
| 9. James Maloney X | 65. Charls White X |
| 10. Conrad Farmer X | 66. Robt. Tatty X |
| 11. James Hamilton X | 67. Nimrod McIntosh X |
| 12. Francis McDaniel X | 68. Hugh Lasly X |
| | 69. Redrick Bethy X |

*Excerpts from the record book of Capt. James Craig, who commanded a company of Tennessee Militia. This command, mustered into service at Fayetteville, was on duty at Fort Claiborne, from October 26, to December 28, 1814. Record Book filed in Alabama Department Archives and History.

13. Nathan Fortner X	70. Peeter Bohoner X
14. John Forbush X	71. Anguish McCloud X
15. Daniel Dodd X	72. Thomas McGill X
16. William Curtis Dr. X	73. James Todd X
17. Thomas Archer X	74. James Lanckford X
18. James Storry X	75. Robt. Hamilton X
19. William Johns X	76. Alen Williams X
20. John Holland X	77. John Biggs X
Elisha Robertson	78. Robt. Warren X
21. Enos Farmer X	79. John Leggit X
22. Hardy Chambers X	80. Ebenezer Skinner X
23. Lemuel Russel X	81. James McClenehan X
24. William Hand X	82. James Hendon X
25. James Gouch X	83. Thos. Laten X
26. William Mathis X	84. John Haynes X
27. James Thredford X	85. David Jackson X
28. Jessy Young X	86. William Lightfoot X
29. Daniel Robison X	87. John Jackson X
30. John Smith X	88. Hugh Jackson X
31. John Sharp X	89. Issac Hegler X
32. George Suliven X	90. William Davidson X
33. William Curtis X	91. David Alsip X
34. John Stafford X	92. George Steel X
35. William Stone X	93. Thomas Dally X
36. William Warren X	Commissioned Officers 5
37. John Garner X	Non Commissioned Do. 11
38. Alexander Rose X	Privates 93
39. Jacob Odom X	—
40. John McCemmy X	109

Contents of Record Book kept by James Craig commanding a company of Tennessee volunteers in the War of 1814.

James Craig's company composed of one hundred and six men, (more or less), recruited from Tennessee, was mustered into service at Fayetteville in 1814, show service in the campaigns of Andrew Jackson's Army on the Coosa, the lower Alabama and Mobile rivers. The record-book shows receipts of arms, assignments of rations, and sundry other information.

Fort Claiborne 26 Octr 1814
 Inspectors Genls Office
 7th Military District

Sir

The Command of Fort Claiborne Devolves on you and Should you be Attacked you are hereby Required to Defend it to the Last Possible Extremity—

our Contery is at Warr and that State Brings with it peculiar and most Sacred Duties—The honour of our Flag Requires a gallint Defence on Every ocasion—Let the watch word of you and your Brave fellows be Death or victory—

By Comd of Majr. Genl. Jackson

Wishing you a pleasant command I have the Honour to be sir very Respectfully yours obt St

H. Haynes Inspect. Genl.

Capt. James Craig
 Comd.

Fort Claibourn, 1st November 1814

Sir:

Since I have been stationed at this place I find stationary scarce you will be so good as send a sufficient supply for the use of this Fort in so doing you will oblige your friend.

James Craig, Capt. Comd. Fort Claibourn

The Commanding Officer at Fort Montgomery.

Fort Claibourn, 2nd November 1814

Sir:

On the 26th of October I was ordered to tack com'd of this fort finding no Forage matter nor forage and Daily Expresse arives and the expectation of General Taylor and other troops I deem it my duty to

inform you of the circumstance that you may take such measures as you think proper You would do well to appoint a forage master as my stay at this place is uncertain.

Yours with respect, etc.
James Craig, Comd.
Fort Claibourn

Capt. John T. Wirt
Asst. D Qr M. Gen'l.

Fort Claibourn, 2 November 1814

Whereas it becomes necessary that a boat should be allways in readiness at the landing for Publick uses all officers and soldiers stationed at this place and or citizens in the vicinity are hereby ordered not to unmoore or in any wise interupt boats on this sid of the river.

James Craig, Capt.

Fort Claiborne Novr the 26th 1814

Inventory of the Property of Cor. James Jackson Deceasd this day of the 2 Reegment of W. T. Mal.

1 Rifle Gun Shotbag Moles & Wipers—
which was delivered to John Letherdale which he is accountable for

1 Tomhawk and Butcher knife Sold for -----	.68 ³ / ₄
1 Pint Bottle Sold for -----	.37 ¹ / ₂
1 Pair Socks -----	.12 ¹ / ₂
1 Pair Mittens -----	.50
1 Pair Panteloons -----	.87 ¹ / ₂
1 Pair Do -----	1.00
1 knapsak and Westcoat and Shirt -----	.50
1 Pair Shoes -----	.81 ¹ / ₄
1 Hatt -----	.31 ¹ / ₄
1 Twist Tobacco -----	.25
Cash found in his pocket -----	1.06
	<hr/>
	\$6.50

We do hereby Certify that the above is a true acount of the property

Sold and money found Belonging to Cor. James Jackson of the 2 Regiment of the West Ten. Mal. who deceased at Fort Claiborne on the 26th Nov. 1814

James Craig Capt.
Edmund W. Gee Lt.
Thomas Nesbett Lt.

(Deceased) John Stafford on the 5 January 1815 at Fort Claiborne.
Fort Claiborne December the 18th, 1814

Inventory of the Property of Hardy Davis Deceased a private in Capt. Kinkaid's Company of West Ten. Mal. who Deceased on the 17th Instant

Cash found in his pockets -----	\$2.37½
1 Pair Leggins—sold for -----	.31¼
2 Pair Shoes Do Do -----	.75
1 Pair mittens -----	.12½
1 Tomhawk knife and Belt -----	.56¼
1 Westcoat 1 Pair panteloons and shirt -----	1.06¼
1 Knapsack -----	.12½
1 Hatt -----	.62½
1 Great Coat -----	.81¼
1 Knife 1 Comb -----	.50

	7.83¼

Fort Claiborne Decr 25th 1814

Recd of Capt James Craig Seven Dollars Eighty three and one fourth cents Being the full amount of the money found and property sold Belonging to Hardy Davis Deceased a private in Capt Kingeaid's Compy of West T. Mal. which I promise to pay to the said Davids lawful Heirs. Witness my Hand the Day and Date above written

Jesse Mitchel

Test
Thomas Powers

Fort Claiborne, 27th December 1814

Capt. James Craig

Sir:

In consequence of recant orders from Brig. Gen. Nathan Taylor you will be prepared and take up the line of march with your own and Capt. Delany's Company tomorrow morning by Eight O'clock for the post of Mobile and on your arrival there report your self to General Winchester or officer in command you will lose no time in making complete preparations to march by the appointed moment and with forced marches proceed the nighest practable road which is best calculated to the destined point in the shortest time possable you will draw eight days Rations the meat rations for seven days Mr. Mitchell will furnish you on your march one Days march from this place.

W. Johnston, Col.
Comm'd.

Agreable to the above order took up the line of march on the 28th December and arived at the Town of Mobile on the 9th January 1815—Reported to Gen. Winchester ordered to Camp L. Mandevill to join the **Regiment.**

On the 11th met Robert Killpatrick a artificer in the 3rd Regiment of U. S. Infantry which Regt. was ordered to Orleans on the 20 January 1815.

Dec. 27th 1814.

This Day By Mutual Consent Elisha Robertson has agged to serve the Remainder of John Holland tower and is Liable to perform Military Duty in said John Holland's Room and stead for the Reminder of the Said Holland Tower Commencing on the 20 of Septr. 1814 and Ending on the 20 of March 1815.

Attest James Craig Capt.

Camp L. Manderville January 25th, 1815

A list of Men that Recd Public Arms

1. William Davidson	1	Musket	Baynot	& C. Box
2. Peeter Bohanen	1	Do	Do	Do
3. Richd. High	1	Do	Do	Do
4. James McClenchan	1	Do	Do	Do
5. Alen Williams	1	Do	Do	Do
6. Ephram Potter	1	Do	Do	Do
7. Anguish McCloud	1	Do	Do	Do
8. William H. Stennet	1	Do	Do	Do
9. Issac Hegler	1	Do	Do	Do
10. John Legget	1	Do	Do	Do
11. Thomas Power	1	Do	Do	Do
12. William Jones	1	Do	Do	Do
13. Joseph Gibson	1	Do	Do	Do
14. James Tedford	1	Do	Do	Do
15. Harvey Giles	1	Do	Do	Do
16. Willson Lightfoot	1	Do	Do	Do
17. George Steel	1	Do	Do	Do
18. Nathan Fortner	1	Do	Do	Do
19. Thomas Gee	1	Do	Do	Do
20. Malcim McMillen	1	Do	Do	Do
21. David Alsip	1	Do	Do	Do
22. Jacob Childers	1	Do	Do	Do
23. John Wood	1	Do	Do	Do
24. James Hendon	1	Do	Do	Do
25. Allen Comer	1	Do	Do	Do
26. John Biggs	1	Do	Do	Do
27. Thomas Leten	1	Do	Do	Do
28. John Letherdale	1	Do	Do	Do
29. John Hackson	1	Do	Do	Do
30. Francis McDonnald	1	Do	Do	Do
31. James Lanckford	1	Do	Do	Do
32. William Barber	1	Do	Do	Do
33. Jacob Ortner	1	Do	Do	Do
-----John McKenney				
34. James Gouch	1	Do	Do	Do
35. Jessy Young	1	Do	Do	Do

36. John Lomicks	1 Do	Do	Do
37. Hugh Lasley	1 Do	Do	Do
38. Redick Bethy	1 Do	Do	Do
39. William Cotton	1 Do	Do	Do
40. John Nesbit	1 Do	Do	Do
William Mathis	1 Do	that Dotty had in uce	

Delivered up the above arms to Capt. Sands at the Town of Mobile in Ft. Charlotte 20th, March 1815.

DEATH OF LIEUTENANT WILCOX

Extract a letter from a friend of the late Lieutenant Joseph M. Wilcox, who lost his life during the recent Creek war, to General Joseph Wilcox, the father of the deceased, dated.

Fort Claiborne, on the Alabama, January 19, 1814.

"In the Course of last month straggling parties of the hostile savages made frequent incursions down the forks of the Tombigee and Alabama. Lieutenant Wilcox was detailed with twenty men to oppose their progress and defend Fort White. Two days after his taking command there he went in search of the foe, he fell in with 15 or 20, whom he put to flight.

It being positively asserted to Lieut. Col. Russell, commanding, that a body of 4 or 500 were on the river Cahaba, he ordered all the disposable force at this post to hold themselves in readiness to march on the first instant for their town.

Accordingly we marched, and on the 2nd encamped at a place called the Cross Roads; at which point we were joined by Lieut. Wilcox and his command. On the 4th we re-commenced our march, the third regiment and the militia amounting to 500 men. Agreeably to previous arrangements, Captain Dinkins of our regiment with two boat loads of provisions and sixty men, were dispatched up the Alabama, with orders to form a junction with us, at or below the town. Expecting to meet the boats, and the trail we had to travel precluded the possibility of wagon carriage, we were furnished with only a few pack horses, and were ordered to draw rations only to include the 9th, which we were obliged to carry on our backs. The wretched guide we had positively asserted that he was acquainted with the course, distance and situation of the town to be attacked—which he said was only 60 miles distant—At the end of four days marching we felt alarmed that we had not reached the Cahaba. However, we continued our march until the 10th at noon, when we discovered 15 or 20 deserted cabins on a high bluff on the Cahaba, as we supposed, for in fact, we did not know where we were. This was our situation on the 10th. We had fasted for 24 hours: we were 120 instead of 60 miles from any supply, and, we had no account of Capt. Dinkins or his command. A council of war was convened, and it was determined to return to this post as soon as possible, depend-

ing on horse flesh for subsistence. We were very apprehensive for the safety of Captain Dinkins: and how to communicate with him was difficult to advise: Col. Russel, fully aware of the determined resolution and patriotism of Lieut. Wilcox, proposed to him to take a small canoe and three picked men, and descend the Alabama, with orders to Captain Dinkins to return to Fort Claiborne, it being obvious that he could not ascend the river in season. At this time we were ignorant of the course, current or distance, from where we were to the mouth of the Cahaba; but judged it to be only 15 miles. Accordingly Lieut. Wilcox started in his canoe with three at 11 o'clock in the night of the 10th. After rowing about 10 miles the canoe upset, and all the ammunition got wet, except a few cartridges which some of the men had in their pockets; one musket was lost. Not deterred by this accident, he righted the canoe, and proceeded down the river, every moment expecting to meet Capt. Dinkins and reach the Alabama. After rowing all night and the day following without intermission, at four o'clock p.m. they came in sight of an Indian town on the right bank of the Cahaba. In an instant the whole town was in motion: the number of Indians they estimated to be 150. Half an hour after passing the town they found themselves at the mouth of the river, making the distance 120 instead of 15 miles, as we supposed. The savages pursued them; but such was the swiftness of their motion in the canoe, that only two could head them; These two fired but missed them. After rowing nine miles down the Alabama they met three canoes, it being then dark, they hailed without effect. They continued rowing all that night and the next day until twelve o'clock, when they halted on the east side of the river for half an hour. Here he made four equal parts of the scanty allowance he had for himself and distributed it among his little crew. Again he started and continued without interruption until four o'clock P.M. the 12th, when they met two Indian canoes, having six savages in one and four in the other. This was fearful odds indeed. As soon as the savages discovered them, they gave the war whoop, and put on shore on different sides. The lieut. and his men landed twelve or fifteen rods above them on the west side; intending to wait and pass them under the cover of night. At dusk the savages came up to where the lieutenant and his party lay, when they made a furious attack. The little band defended themselves with the utmost bravery until they beat off the savages with the loss of two of them killed—but they carried with them the lieutenant's canoe. He resolved to take to the cane brake until moon light; they traveled this dismal swamp until twelve O'clock A.M. when they found themselves on the river bank two miles above the spot where they fought

the Indians. There they constructed a cane raft, in order to cross the river, with an intention to continue on eastwardly direction toward the Georgia road, and by that means get home. In crossing the river they lost a musket, and their remaining ammunition got wet. They started on the morning of the 13th to make the road, but again concluded to make a wooden raft and float down the river. This being done, they retired into the cane until night. At 3 o'clock P.M. one of the men came down to the beach and discovered a canoe rowing down the river with ten savages. In this critical situation they again resolved to make the Georgia road. Accordingly they travelled that night until the morning of the 14th, and then reached the high lands that border the river bottoms. At this time they had been 3 days with scarcely any sustenance. The day proving cloudy and having no compass, they again abandoned their object and returned to the raft, which they reached at 3 o'clock on the 15th. As they were preparing to embark on the raft, a canoe hove in sight, rowing up the river with eight savages. These landed and surrounded the lieut., his corporal and one man of his own regiment. One man of the militia having abandoned him on the appearance of the savages upon the 12th. The savages fired and wounded corporal Simpson in the knee—not one of the two muskets nor the rifle the lieut. carried with him would fire, in consequence of their ammunition having been wet: however, they continued defending themselves until their gallant leader was shot through the body, and even then, he, though mortally wounded, pursued one of the savages into his canoe, knocked him down with his rifle and put him overboard into the river. This was the last the only survivor saw of his brave lieutenant, for at this juncture he crept unperceived into a thick cane brake, expecting every moment to share the fate of his lieutenant and his corporal.

O Fortune, what a capricious, incomprehensible something thou art! how transitory thy favors and how malevolent their distribution! Ten minutes more, and the life of my dear, dear, friend would have been preserved—an ornament to his profession—the fond and future hope of his family—a friend to the distressed, and to society and animating and cheerful member! Scarcely was the tragic scene over when Capt. Dinkins hove in sight. The savages made off so precipitately as to leave their scalping knives and tomahawks behind them.

What a sad spectacle! Before him lay his gallant friend and brother officer weltering in his gore—the brave and faithful corporal beside

him—their skulls split with tomahawks. In this condition they lingered for ten minutes, when the captain closed their eyes forever.

Their corpses were put on board the barge and brought to this place, where they were interred with all the honor that is due to departed worth and exalted merit.

Lieut. Joseph M. Wilcox, was the son of General Joseph Wilcox, a respectable revolutionary officer, formerly of Connecticut, now a citizen of Marietta, Ohio. At the age of 17 years, lieut. W. was appointed a lieut. in the 3rd reg. of the United States infantry. At the age of 23 years, on the 15th of Jan. 1814, he died universally lamented by the whole corps to which he was attached. No person under the same circumstances as those which preceded his unfortunate and untimely death, could have exhibited more skill, judgement, activity, or determined courage. Such blood was spilt at Thermopylae.*

*National Intelligencer, July 12, 1814.